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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 3 May 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 3 May 1991 from His Excellency Mr. Abdul Wakil, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to you (see annex).

I have further the honour to request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 29 and 68 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad E. ROSHAN-RAWAAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 3 May 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

Following our conversations on 1 May 1991 at United Nations Headquarters, I would like to inform you of the following:

Over three years have elapsed since the signing of the Geneva Agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which were aimed at ending foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, solving the differences, and improving bilateral relations between the two countries. Based on these Agreements, the limited Soviet military contingent returned to their country over two years ago. The Republic of Afghanistan as a party to the Agreements has always tried to the best of its ability to fulfil its commitments arising from the accords. However, the party, i.e., Pakistan, since the very beginning has not adhered to its commitments - it has stepped up overt intervention in different forms in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. So far, for instance, 13,520 cases of violation by Pakistan of the Geneva Agreements have been reported through 1,881 notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and then to the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP).

In pursuit with the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan has lately forwarded new offers wherein it has called for living in peace and security with all its neighbours, Pakistan in particular, and has stood for economic and political cooperation instead of military rivalry. But negligent to all these constructive proposals of the Afghan side, Pakistan obstinately keeps on its intervention, including arms interference, in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan. The latest aggression by the regular military and militia units of Pakistan on Khost province is a distinctive example to this effect.

From the very beginning of the preparation for attack on Khost in early March 1991, irrefutable evidence showed that the military quarters of Pakistan had made enormous efforts and were preparing for an extensive aggression. The position of Pakistan's military units, for instance, was changed in the vicinity of Afghanistan's borders for a direct involvement in the aggression and for providing further help and support for the Afghan opposition. For example, the anti-tank batallion No. 37 related to army corps No. 30 was shifted from Gujranwala to army corps No. 11 based in Kohat. The artillery regiment 33 and infantry regiment 80 of the infantry division were shifted to Tal area adjacent to the border. Moreover, the airforce squadron batallion No. 9 related to army corps No. 11 came in a state of stand-by at the vicinity of the borders. The Bano and Miram Shah airports located near the borders were also on the alert.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan warned the Government of Pakistan in this respect through a letter dated 12 March 1991. Likewise, a letter was sent on 19 March 1991 by the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan addressed to Your Excellency.

However, the intervention and preparations by Pakistan not only were not reduced but a direct assault began with the Pakistani forces, including artillery, rocket and ground units involved. Incidents of Pakistan intrusions over the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan in Khost were also noticed. In addition, the Pakistani forces directly took part in the massacre of local inhabitants and looting of their properties.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan apprised Your Excellency as the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the situation through letters dated 23, 25 and 31 March 1991 wherein the developments were illucidated, and asked for the taking of urgent measures to prevent the aggression.

Furthermore, the Pakistani authorities were notified of the matter by protest notes dated 19, 23, 24, 25, 29 and 31 March 1991 to halt its interference and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan and to abide by the spirit and letter of the Geneva Agreements as an international authentic document.

Likewise, the State of the Republic of Afghanistan publicly stated that, despite the intensification of intervention by Pakistan and violation of the Geneva Agreements by that country, the Afghan side still insists on the political settlement of the situation and called upon Pakistan to display goodwill and to give way to cooperation instead of confrontation. In addition, we appealed to the leaders of some other countries to make use of their influence and prestige for the cessation of Pakistani interference.

Meanwhile, emphatic instructions were given to the units of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan based near the border fully to avoid any steps which would lead to further deterioration of the situation. This instruction was completely translated into practice. But unfortunately, the Pakistani side left without response to these calls and, instead of avoiding aggression and interference in Khost war, it was engaged in strengthening its military units, expediting the dispatch of arms and ammunition and increased its negative propaganda.

The Hindustan Times of 16 April, quoting reliable sources, divulged that right before the beginning of military operations, under the guidance of Pakistan, the American cargo aircraft were loaded with a quantity of arms and ammunition from Saudi Arabia and shipped to Pakistan which were used during the war in Khost. As a result of the intensification of intervention by Pakistan, imbalance of forces and the unfavourable climate, Khost collapsed and the Pakistani units, together with armed opposition forces, particularly with Khalis and Gulbuddin groupings, who were never able alone to implement such a plot, entered Khost.

According to the information of the government officials of Afghanistan, up to 10,000 Pakistani armymen, militias and police, 200 tanks and several artillery and rocket units of that country were directly involved in the combat operations against the forces based in Khost and provided supportive operations. These units, accompanied by Pakistan militias equipped with assorted weapons, attacked the Khost City from the east and surroundings of that province under the command of Pakistani generals named Kazimi and Hariz, as well as Haqani, a leader of the Afghan extremists.

The artillery regiment 66 of the Pakistan army using heavy weapons, staged an attack from Sayed Raki of Miram Shah, the infantry regiment 66 of that country under the command of General Sarwar Khan, together with Egyptian advisers Ziauddin and Omer using 20 tanks, launched their attack from the centre of Miram Shah through Tal on Zadran and Nadirshah Kot areas.

Moreover, the Rawalpindi artillery regiment commanded by Jafar Khan, with 3,000 commando personnel wearing the costumes of the Afghan opposition using heavy weapons, attacked Zahra, Spena and Mangal areas.

Also, a commando unit of the Pakistan army with 500 men dressed in Afghan costumes, attacked Tanai district using light weapons. The artillery regiment 59 of the Pakistan army using heavy weapons opened fire on Ismael Khel area. A group of 500 youth attached to Jamiate Tulaba-i-Pakistan and some Filipinos together with the Afghan opposition making use of light weapons took part in the Khost war under the names of Al-Bader-1 and Al-Bader-2. Even after the fall of Khost, Pakistan continued with its intervention. For instance, on 23 April 1991, two Pakistani nationals, Eshtiaq Ahmad, son of Mushtaq Ahmad, and Tabish Sediqi, son of Abdul Wadoud, attached to Jamaate Islami Pakistan, inhabitants of Rawalpindi, were captured in Wagh Jan Gorge, Logar province, by the armed forces of Afghanistan while perpetrating armed subversive activities against the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan. A rocket launcher and one klashinkov rifle have been seized from them. In a press conference on 24 April at Kabul, they confessed that, together with three other Pakistani nationals named Afran, Anis and Wais, they had been introduced by Doctor Kamal, a Pakistani citizen to the office of Gulbuddin's Islamic Party in Peshawar for dispatch to Afghanistan 20 days before their arrest. They have also admitted that, with the instruction and guidance of Fayaz, a Pakistani national, they were transferred to Kunjaki area of Logar to take part together with other eight armed persons who were Pakistanis too in leading combat operations against the Republic of Afghanistan in Tangi Wagh Jan, Logar province.

The commando, ground and tank units of Pakistan (about 40 tanks) were seen while committing murder and plunder in Khost after taking over that city. After the fall of Khost, these forces promptly returned to their previous positions. Prior to the fall of Khost, the long range artillery force of Pakistan in Miram Shah (newly deployed there) and the rocket units of that country (based in Ghulam Khan area) were opening heavy fire on the Afghan positions. This fire was made regularly and was professionally managed.

The Pakistani officers had also taken part in the mobilization and governing of the Afghan opposition forces. (Their conversations on the wireless were heard.) Pakistan bulldozers and road construction means took part in levelling the crossing ways for the armoured and transportation vehicles. Meetings were also held at different levels even at a highest level that is, with the President of Pakistan in chair, to organize the attack on Khost and to conduct its subsequent affairs. (Mention was made of it in the protest note dated 8 April 1991.)

According to available information, the order of attack on Khost was given by General Durani, Chief of Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan. This condition not only runs counter to our wishes for a political settlement of the situation and the establishment of an atmosphere of cooperation and friendship with Pakistan. It is also a gross violation of the Geneva Agreements resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, and the internationally-accepted norms, particularly the principles and goals of the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

After the fall of Knost, the Pakistani forces, together with extremist armed opposition, resorted to looting and destruction of public and private properties, torture and massacre of the civilians, compulsory immigration of the inhabitants to Pakistan, killing and torture of the captives, a situation that is of grave concern for the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Two letters bearing complaints in this respect were sent to Your Excellency as the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Likewise, under the protest notes dated 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 April 1991, Pakistan was asked to renounce from open and wicked interference in Khost incidents, i.e., illegal travel by individuals and officials of that country to Khost, disrespect to the dead bodies and martyrs and the mobilization and governing of the armed opposition forces. Unfortunately, no serious action has been taken to prevent and avoid such actions. But in the meantime, the interference by Pakistan has been intensified in other border provinces of Afghanistan like Kandahar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Ghazni and Logar. In addition, letters have been sent by Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan to the leaders of some countries.

Likewise, Pakistani officials, above all, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, a Pakistani senator, General Hamid Gul, commandant of Multan army corps, Colonel Imam and General Durani, Chief of ISI of Pakistan, by trampling down the principles of international law and by naked violation of the Geneva Agreements have entered Khost province illegally, without passports and visas and have met the Pakistani military units and the Afghan opposition groupings.

Some Pakistani Ministers of Parliament have strongly protested and condemned the visit of these people to Khost. Similarly, General Kazimi, a Pakistani national, together with Sayed Ahmad Gailani, head of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan visited Khost on 20 April to talk to and counsel with the local commanders of opposition in Paktia province. On 21 April, they took part in the meeting of the local commanders of the opposition whence Jalaluddin Haqani also spoke. In his talk, Jalaluddin Haqani called on the

commanders related to the Alliance of Seven to give support on their preparedness for attack on Gardez on the earliest. The plan of cooperation and coordination of the activities of the armed groups attached to different organizations for attack on Gardez, centre of Paktia province was assessed in this meeting. Moreover, men of Commander Haqani who declined to expose their identity stated on 14 April that Major General Janjo, Operation Director of Pakistan's intelligence service in Peshawar, will meet in the near future with Haqani and Gulbuddin in Khost. According to the same source, a high ranking delegation of ISI arrived in Khost on 6 April.

Apart from the information given by the mass media and that gathered by the detecting organs of Afghanistan, on the interventions of Pakistan, the following evidence and facts are also available:

1. Pronouncements by eyewitnesses, such as Mirza Alam Hamidi, head of the Exhibitions Department of the Commerce Ministry and a tribal figure, Major-General Abdul Satar, Colonel Bemillah, Major Abdul Zahir, Senior Captain Nazar Mohammad, Senior Captain Shir Hasan, First Lieutenant Najibullah, First Lieutenant Sayed Nazim, officers of the armed forces of Afghanistan, as well as by Abdul Wahab, Abdul Hanan, Sediqullah, Abdul Wasie, Mohammad Hashim, Khwaja Mahtabuddin, Mohammad Shah, Abdul Samie, Mohammad Azam, soldiers of the armed forces who have returned safe from Khost incidents and some of them were even detained for a couple of days and then have escaped from them. Some of these people were transferred to Pakistan and from there they rescued themselves in view of tribal relationships.

2. The assertions by some Pakistani political personalities, senators and deputies to the Parliament, among them, Mahmoud Khan Achekzai and Mujiburrahman, leaders of Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party, Omar Asghar, Chairman of the Isteqlal Youth League and a member of the National Working Committee of Tahreek Isteqlal Party, Afrasiab Khatak, Chairman of Pashtoonkwa Qawmi Enqilabi Party.

3. Statements by the organizers of attack on Khost, such as Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Liaqat Baluch, Jalaluddin Haqani, and others.

4. Publications by the mass media of Pakistan, countries of the region and world and eyewitness accounts by correspondents of the BBC on 22, 24 and 25 March, Voice of America on 26 March and 2 and 4 April. The Pakistani newspapers Nawai Waqt of 15 April 1991, Muslim of 6 April 1991, Nation of 9 April 1991, and others.

5. The expressions by some Pakistani policemen, such as Abdul Satar and Mohammad Alam, to Afghan eyewitnesses who were taken to Pakistan and then escaped.

The Government of Afghanistan demands the following with regard to the situation in Khost and its consequences:

(a) Cessation of interventions and aggression by Pakistan and full implementation of the Geneva Accords by that country;

(b) Honouring of the safety of the prisoners of war and wounded persons and their humane treatment until their release as called for under international norms;

(c) Cooperation of the international community, including the United Nations, to this effect with Afghanistan.

It should be pointed out that, despite the prevalent situation and the incidents in Khost, the Republic of Afghanistan firmly stands for a political solution of the situation in Afghanistan. This goodwill of the Republic of Afghanistan has been reflected in our proposals to the Pakistani side for the settlement of the disputes through talks and embarking on the path of economic cooperation instead of confrontation which we confirm once again. Likewise, in connection with the Afghan opposition, we consider dialogue and talk as the only way for settling all the problems.

Abdul WAKIL
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Afghanistan